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California State Senate

SENATOR
CAROL LIU

TWENTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



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December 1, 2014

Tom Adams
Executive Director
Instructional Quality Commission
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on the proposed History-Social Science Framework

I have reviewed the draft History-Social Science Framework that is currently in the field review survey process. There is great excitement about the revision to this framework, to include additional content specific to diverse people and cultures, as well as updates to historical facts and events that have occurred since the existing framework was adopted in 2005. I recognize that a tremendous amount of hard work over several years has culminated in this draft framework. However, I must echo concerns that have been raised by advocates for the LGBT community about components of the draft.

I believe that the framework is limited in scope with regard to including the role and contribution of LGBT Americans, pursuant to SB 48 (Leno/2011). For example, the framework includes only two references to LGBT individuals, both of whom are gay white males. The framework should portray the racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and gender diversity of the LGBT community. Further, the framework includes references to only one person and one event in grade 4, with no further references in any grade other than grade 11. The framework does not include any references to LGBT people or events in Kindergarten and grades 1-3, 5-10 and 12.

I request that the History-Social Science Subject Matter Committee recommend edits to the draft framework. Edits should include broader representation of the racial, ethnic and gender diversity with the LGBT community and references throughout the entire curriculum. Students need exposure to a broad range of historically significant people and events that is truly reflective of our society and values.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact my staff Lynn Lorber at 916-651-4105 or lynn.lorber@sen.ca.gov with any questions or to discuss these concerns further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Liu".

Senator Carol Liu
25th Senate District

cc: Jo Ann Isken, Instructional Quality Commission Chair
Bill Honig, History-Social Science Subject Matter Committee Co-Chair
Nancy McTygue, History-Social Science Subject Matter Committee Co-Chair
Tracie Yee, CDE Commission Liaison